



Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Cover Memo

Meeting Type: City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 5/8/2025

File ID: TMP-5403

Department: City Council

Subject:

Type of Action: Approval/Action

Resolution honoring local winners from the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Resolution No.

Finance Information:

Account Number: N/A

City Cost Amount: N/A

Total Cost: N/A

Special Circumstances:

Grant Funded: N/A

Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency: N/A

Resolution #: N/A

Location: (list below)

Address: N/A

District: District 1 ☐ District 2 ☐ District 3 ☐ District 4 ☐ District 5 ☐

Additional Comments:

N/A

RESOLUTION NO. 25 -

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama wish celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of Elizabeth Allen, Cody Wheatley, and Deeb Habchi, for their dedication and remarkable success at the Special Olympics World Winter Games; and

WHEREAS, Beth Allen, from Harvest, Alabama, has spent the past twenty years passionately competing in Special Olympics sports, excelling particularly in figure skating and bowling at the national level. Her athletic journey is not only a testament to her physical dedication but also to her resilience, personal growth, and the deep sense of belonging she finds through competition. More than medals, Beth values the joy of sharing her experiences with friends, family, and her broader community, using storytelling as a powerful tool for connection and inspiration. Supported by influential figures like Kay Scott and Coach Heidi Parker, she continues to thrive despite challenges, embodying determination and warmth; and

WHEREAS, Deeb Habchi, from Huntsville, Alabama, has been a dedicated Special Olympics athlete since 2008, discovering his true passion for figure skating in 2016 after exploring sports like swimming, volleyball, basketball, and athletics. His involvement in Special Olympics has not only deepened his connection to the special needs community but also helped him grow in confidence and independence. Deeb proudly embraces his heritage and celebrates a wide range of accomplishments, including earning the rank of Eagle Scout, receiving the Alabama Occupational Diploma, and actively participating in the Madison Mighty Explorer Club. His greatest source of strength comes from his supportive family—he looks up to his hardworking parents and treasures time spent with his beloved nephew. Known for his fighting spirit, sharp sense of humor, and loyalty as a friend, Deeb also has a love for singing and a bright personality; and

WHEREAS, Cody Wheatley, from Huntsville, Alabama, has been a dedicated Special Olympics athlete for several years, beginning his journey in Florida with bowling and athletics before expanding his talents in Alabama to include bowling, equestrian, and figure skating. His involvement in Special Olympics has helped him overcome shyness, build lasting friendships, and unlock new abilities. During high school, Cody also competed in Unified track, embracing the spirit of inclusivity and teamwork. Off the ice, he enjoys playing video games, sharing laughs with his dad, and showcasing his lively, talkative sense of humor. Fueled by passion and determination, Cody is committed to excelling in figure skating and making the most of the unforgettable experiences that lie ahead; and

WHEREAS, Heidi Parker, from Hartselle, Alabama, has been a passionate figure skating coach for Special Olympics since 2003, deeply valuing the meaningful bonds she's formed with athletes and their families. As both a coach and a proud parent, she finds immense joy in watching her students grow, overcome challenges, and achieve their goals. Outside the rink, Heidi is a devoted stepmom, mom, grandma, and foster parent who enjoys spending time with her family, especially during motorcycle rides and community charity events. Inspired daily by her athletes' resilience, kindness, and determination, she was honored to represent her state and country at the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025. As a skating school manager

and instructor, Heidi is committed to ensuring her athletes are well-prepared, while cherishing the chance to see them shine on the world stage—a true reflection of her unwavering dedication to their growth and success; and

WHEREAS, together, this outstanding team has proudly represented the City of Huntsville on an international stage, delivering remarkable performances at the Special Olympics World Winter Games. Elizabeth Allen brought home a **Silver Medal** in the Level 1 Female Division 3, showcasing her grace and dedication. Cody Wheatley earned a **Gold Medal** in the Level 1 Male Division 2, a testament to his hard work and passion. Deeb Habchi also achieved a **Gold Medal** in the Level 1 Male Division 3, demonstrating his strength and commitment. Their achievements not only highlight their individual talents but also reflect the heart, spirit, and excellence of Huntsville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, proudly honor the incredible achievements of Elizabeth Allen, Cody Wheatley, and Deeb Habchi, whose dedication and success at the Special Olympics World Winter Games have brought great pride to our entire community. We wish them the very best in all their future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of ____, 2025.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the ____ day of ____, 2025.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama